

I wanted to express my concerns about the proposed expansion by the FCC of LPFM (Low Power FM) radio in the United States. I listen to a radio network, K-LOVE, that uses FM translators to beam its signal into dozens of communities throughout the United States, in all time zones in the continental U.S. I also listen to another local FM station, KGBI FM in Omaha, that has two translator stations in the Nebraska/Iowa area. I listen to one of these two stations virtually every time I'm in my car, and my alarm clock is set to one of them every morning. K-LOVE and KGBI have been a great encouragement to me in many ways. They are a reliable source of national and local news, they give me information that I can't get from other radio sources, and their music and conversation is unique in our area and has helped lift my spirits as I go to and from work. They announce events such as local concerts and speakers that I wouldn't hear about elsewhere on the radio dial. I know that hundreds of thousands of people listen to K-LOVE across the United States, and thousands listen to KGBI via its translators. If the FCC follows through on its plans to expand LPFM in the way that is proposed (giving priority to LPFM signals), the translator stations that so many people like me depend on could be lost. I honestly believe my life would be negatively affected by the loss of K-LOVE and KGBI-FM; I would greatly miss them, and there would be nothing that could replace them. I believe they service a unique market in every community in which they have a signal, and provide music, information, and encouragement to their listeners that actually make a positive difference in listeners' personal lives. These stations give hope and encouragement through their music and conversation, and therefore, I believe it would be a great disservice to large segments of the United States for the FCC to expand LPFM broadcasting. Thank you for your attention. Sincerely, Mark Stiemann